

# Harding Pledges New Efforts for World Peace

A Marion, O., dispatch, dated Nov. 4, says: Making his first speech as president elect, Warren G. Harding declared here tonight at an election celebration by the "home folks" and crowds from other Ohio cities that the Versailles league of nations was "now deceased." He added, however, that the new administration intended to see that the nation played its part in a new international association.

"I am going down to Washington as a booster for the United States of America," Mr. Harding said, speaking from the front porch, adding that he had come through the fight "without an apology or a regret." He declared that he would rather not have the presidency than to win it "by speaking ill or uttering a lie."

So large were the crowds that people filled the streets for a block in all directions from the front porch and only a few persons could hear the speech.

In a parade past the Harding residence there were many special features, one man leading a donkey on whose sides was painted "Jimmie didn't treat me right," while another group carried an effigy silhouetted against a red fire background and labeled "The League of Nations."

"I didn't see as much sorrow in your faces as I had apprehended," Mr. Harding said to the crowd then. "It's not that you or I question the desire of America to play its part; it's not that we question the high ideals of those who were responsible for the Versailles covenant. You just did not want a surrender of the United States of America; you wanted America to go in under American ideals. That's why you didn't care for the league which is now deceased."

"America is playing a great part now. America is healing the heart of the old world tonight as is no other nation. But there is more to do. There is a new world relationship, and when the next administration comes into power we're going to play our part."

"We're going to ask for nations associated together in justice. But it shall be an association which surrenders nothing of American freedom."

"One can't be quite happy or normal when he contemplates the obstacles that are quite as heavy as falls upon any human being under the shining sun. I told you, when I came back here from the convention that if I had to be a superman, I should be reluctant to accept the task. But America is not expecting the superman."

"I have told the people that we are going to have in America once more government by the constitution, government by the people through their chosen representatives. The thing that counts is the will of the people, not the will of the chief executive."

"Those of you who know me best know, maybe, that I have one great attribute which will fall into the situation. All along, all my life, I have preached conference, counsel, exchange of opinion, and the meeting of many minds."

"It has been said I am reactionary and ultra conservative. Let me remind you that the great thing for America is the slowing up of the extreme radical and the speeding up of the conservative, so that we can better come together."

"These are serious times. The civilization of the world was turned into a fluid state. Permanent crystallization has not yet come. It is for America to give to the world a steadying and stabilizing influence."

"I am going into office knowing that the heart of America is right. In the spirit of compromise, in the desire for understanding, and in the mutuality of interest, America will go on and give of its service for the good of humanity and the safety of the world."

"I want a part in that. I want your wishes, your confidence, aye, I want your prayers. It is a serious and solemn task, and when I am done I want to think that I can come back and be one of you again, to have your confidence and respect. By your action last Tuesday you have earned my gratitude."

"Happy? Of course I'm happy. I'm proud that my own state stood by me so splendidly in a contest where its loyalty counted for so much."

I'm proud of what old New York did for the national ticket and Jim Wadsworth and Nathan Miller. I'm happy for my friends, George Moses in New Hampshire and Frank Brandegee in Connecticut, Lenroot in Wisconsin and Spencer in Missouri. I'm happy over Tennessee and the wonderful vote in Oklahoma. I'm thrilled at the senate and house results, thrilled to know that there will be at the back of my administration indestructible Republican majorities in congress.

"But, O my friends, happy and proud as I am, I am bending my mind upon the future and its responsibilities, the things that must be done for America first, the duties that must be attempted for civilization. These are sobering, steadying thoughts. I want so to be fair, fair to all the world, and, God helping me, I shall be."

The crowds called for Mrs. Harding and cheered her as she stood beside her husband. She was happy. But outside of the Harding family the most delighted person present was "Uncle Charlie" Patton, civil war veteran and Harding's neighbor, who is said to have cast his first vote for Lincoln, while his most recent vote was for Harding.

The day after Harding was nominated "Uncle Charlie" had bought \$100 worth of "red fire." Thursday morning he lugged it from his cellar and spent the day pouring it into little envelopes. When dark came "Uncle Charlie" appeared in the yard and began pouring his red fire on the ground in little piles and lighting it.

## ROOT THINKS PEACE PACT MUST STAND

Following is staff correspondence by David Lawrence in the Pittsburg Leader from Washington under date of Nov. 8:

"Elihu Root has advised Senator Harding that a new deal from the beginning by abandoning the peace treaty of Versailles is impossible and that to attempt it would bring chaos and an entire loss of the results of the war and general disaster involving the United States."

"This advice, it now can be disclosed, was given by cablegram from London by Mr. Root during the latter part of August and was an effort to keep Senator Harding from adopting the extreme position of the treaty and league which Senator Johnson was advocating."

"The cablegram was sent partly as a result of an inquiry by Will Hays, chairman of the Republican national committee, as to whether the Hague court could not be so defined as to include the work supposed to be the object of the league of nations. Also there is an interesting story of what happened at Marion when the cable from Mr. Root arrived. First of all, this correspondent presents exclusively today in The Leader the ideas of Mr. Root as cabled to a man who was stopping in Marion during the latter part of August and who showed the cablegram to Senator Harding. Here is what Mr. Root cabled:

"Declaration on which Hays asks an opinion cannot be defined. The Hague court cannot be made to cover anything but justifiable questions. Matters of state policy must be dealt with by conference of powers. See explanation in my letter to Hays of March, 1919. It is very unwise to declare the league dead. . . . It would not be true. The league has hardly begun to function because the terms of peace have not yet been enforced by the victorious nations. Polish questions for example are properly being handled by the foreign offices without any reference to the league. They are not the league's business."

"In my opinion a new deal here from the beginning by abandoning Versailles treaty is impossible. To attempt it would bring chaos and an entire loss of results of the war and general disaster involving the United States. The only possible course is to keep the treaty, modifying it to meet the requirements of the senate reservations and the Chicago platform and probably in some other respects."

"The precise way in which some modifications can be best made must be determined at the time in conference with the other parties."

## AN ASSOCIATION OF NATIONS

Dallas, Texas, Nov. 13th, 1920.—Hon. W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Nebr. Sir: Senator Harding has made the statement that he is expecting to call some of the principal men of the country, including also women, to advise as to the nature of the proposed Association of Nations which he favors. He will most likely call you to Marion for your opinion of the formation of an association.

You probably take the position that the proposed league of nations will never become the compact which is to include the United States, because of the fact that there is much sentiment against it. I was opposed to the league for certain reasons. Among those reasons was that the league takes in many nations not having governments based upon the same principles as that of the nations of the western world, and those backward nations also promote and tolerate practices which are little less than slavery.

Why is it not possible to now form some sort of an association for the promotion of world peace? There is such an association which ex-President Taft has been working with, but it would seem that it has outgrown its usefulness. But there will be no use to promote any sort of an association to promote world peace, except there is some common principle which we expect to promote.

It seems to me that in the promotion of the league the makers began on the wrong side. Too many nations were taken regardless of the basic principles of the respective governments of those nations.

There is a wonderful opportunity, just at this time, to spread the principle of representative government throughout the world by the Association of Nations, if we are wise enough to take the opportunity as it is now offered.

We may now see that Britain is not willing, under the premiership of Lloyd George, to enter the Association of Nations, and break down the league. Evidently we might deal much easier with France than with England, although the people of England will support the principles which France advances.

The government of the United States is based upon four general principles. First, the principles of justice as proclaimed by Jehovah, at Mount Sinai. Second, representative legislative bodies. Third, the social equality of women and men, and recently the political equality of men and women, and fourth, the separation of church and state.

Upon these principles a league might be formed very easily with France, and the compact establishing the league or association would contain these general principles. It would be the policy of the association to accept other nations into the association when those nations would comply with a written constitution embodying these four principles of government.

We could readily depend on both France and Italy joining the association under these principles, and Britain would join by a popular vote, without a doubt. Let Lloyd George fight it out with his people. Then Belgium would join, including Sweden and Denmark and several of the western nations. This policy would permit all nations to join the association, but they would necessarily establish a government under a written constitution embodying the principles mentioned. To establish woman suffrage in all governments would give the Association of Nations a wonderful lead to say nothing of the subject of peace. No doubt, President Wilson had that in view in promoting the league of nations, as well as the subject of peace. I am not looking for a job, but this idea might be greatly elaborated in The Commoner and the new organization might be promoted from that publication. Yours truly,

WALTER JOHNSON.

## PERTINENT "IFS"

If Brother Jenkins of the Kansas City Post thinks he can gain anything for himself, the Post or the Democratic party, by slurring and ridiculing W. J. Bryan, he will find himself very much mistaken. Without doubt Bryan has the largest personal following of any man in the world and retains the respect and confidence of his most bitter opponents. If the Democratic convention at San Francisco had followed his advice, perhaps there would not be so many of us now trying to find out "who struck Billy Patterson" and wondering just how it was done.—Clay Center, Kansas, Economist.